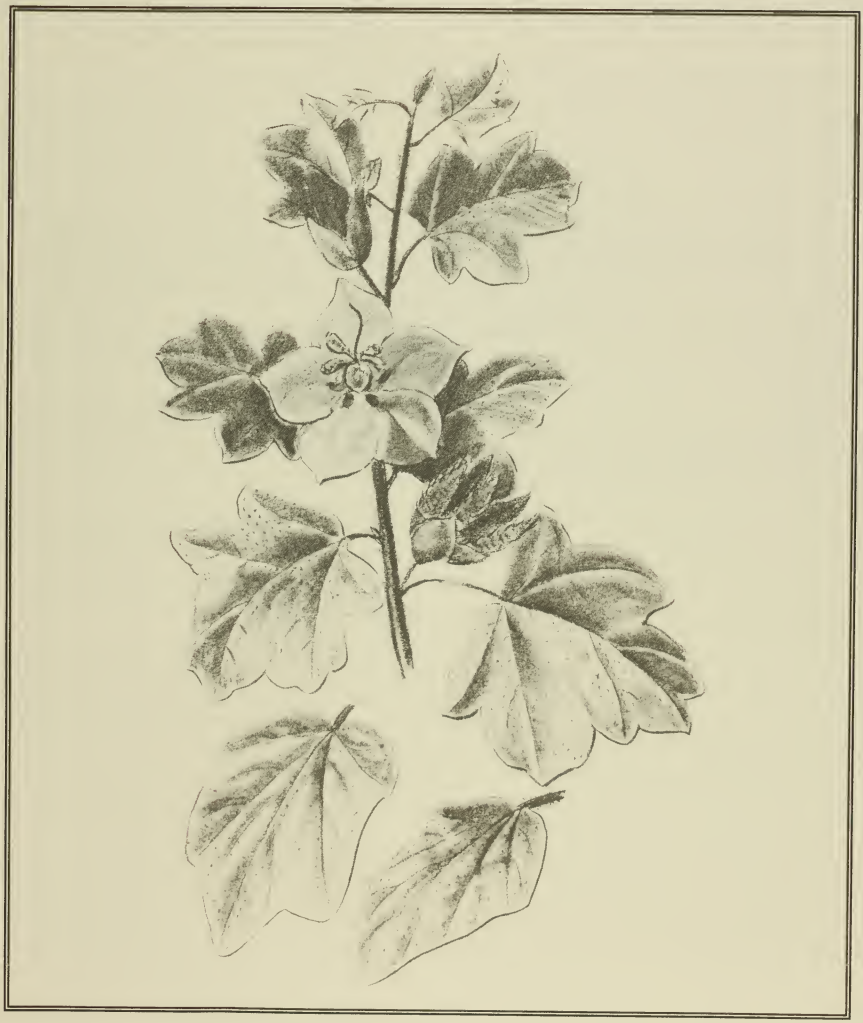
California GARDEN

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER- 2000 Volume 91 No. 5 $1.50



HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

Sept. 2 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY open from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri., also the first and third Saturdays. Members of SDFA can check out books. (Membership $10 a year, includes magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762.

Sept. 2-3 Sat.-Sun.

LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL FERN SOCIETY Annual Fern and Exotic Plant Show and Sale. Both days 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Arboretum of Los Angeles County, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia. Show, workshops & lectures are free. General admission to Arboretum. 562/864-0883.

Sept. 9 Sat.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Fundraiser. "Gardening with the Stars" 5:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Gardening celebrities, food, music. $125.00 per person. Information/tickets 760/436-3036

Sept 10 Sun.

SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY Rhizome Sale. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Patio B. 619/463-6700.

Sept. 14 Thurs.

THE HUNTINGTON Garden Talk and Plant Sale - Vines & Espaliers. 2:30 p.m. 1150 Oxford Road, San Marino. 626/405-2141. General admission.

Sept. 16 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See Sept. 2 for details.

Sept. 16-17 Sat.-Sun.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY Show and Sale. Both days 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. 619/443-4795. Free.

Sept. 17 Sun.

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY Daylily Sale. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Patio B.

Sept. 23 Sat.

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM Adult Field Trip. "Secrets of the Mountain Pines" 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Transportation provided. San Diego County. 619/232-3821 ext. 203 for information/registration. Fee.

Sept. 23 Sat.

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM Adult Class. "Way of the Plants" 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. East San Diego County. 619/232-3821 ext. 203 for information/registration. Fee.

Sept. 26 Tues. and Sept. 30 Sat.

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM Adult Class and Field Trip. "Plants of Coastal Salt Marshes" Class Tues. 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Field trip Sat. 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Transportation provided. 619/232-3821 ext. 203 for information/registration. Fee.

Sept. 28 Thurs.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Bus Tour to Sherman Gardens and Rancho Los Alamitos. Lunch on your own. $30.00 members, $33.00 non. 858/277-5004 or 619/232-5762.

Sept. 30 - Oct 1 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB Fall Show and Sale. Both days 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Demos at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. 619/699-8776. Free.

Oct. 7 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See July 1 for details.

Oct. 7-8 Sat.-Sun.

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY Show and Sale. Sat. 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Sun 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. 619/262-7535. Free.

Oct 12 Thurs.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Bus Tour to Temecula Rose Garden plus a nursery. Lunch on your own. $34 members, $37 nonmembers. 858/277-5004, 619/232-5762.

Oct. 12-15 Thurs.-Sun.

THE HUNTINGTON Fall Plant Festival. Lectures and Sale. Thurs.-Fri. Noon-4:30 p.m. Sat.-Sun. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 1150 Oxford Road, San Marino. 626/405-2141. General admission.

Oct. 13-15 Fri.-Sun

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS San Diego International Orchid Fair, show and sale. Fri. set-up day. Sat and Sun 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Del Mar Fair Grounds Activity Center (near main gate).

(continued on page 132)

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for 90 Years

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VOLUME 91 NUMBER 5

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE HANDS-ON GARDENER

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2000

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FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 619/232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your show.

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(Horticultural Calendar, continued from page 130)

Oct. 14 Sat.
EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY Show. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Foothills Adult School, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/588-8893. Free.

Oct. 14 Sat.
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY Sale. Plants, books, seeds, and bulbs. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Balboa Park, patio area of Casa del Prado. 858/755-5143.

Oct. 17 Tues.
★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING Dinner, Slide Show and Speaker, Jan Tubiolo "Cuyamaca Water Conservation Garden." 5:45 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Reservations required by Oct. 12, 2000. Information/reservations 619/232-5762. Fee.

Oct. 21 Sat.
★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See Sept. 2 for details.

Oct. 21-22 Sat.-Sun.
SAN DIEGO ORCHID SOCIETY Show and Sale. Sat. Noon-4:00 p.m. Sun 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. 619/982-9128. Free.

Oct. 28 Sat.
POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB Sale. Plants and Crafts. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Masonic Hall, 1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. 619/223-3782.

Oct. 28-29 Sat.-Sun.
IKEBANA OF SHOKA-KAI Show. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. both days. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. 858/571-6137. Free.

Nov. 4-5 Sat.-Sun.
LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB Sale. Sat. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sun. 9:00 a.m.-Noon. Outside Von's Market, Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 760/741-0829.

BALBOA PARK:

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN Open Tues. thru Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Docent tours with reservations. Fee. 619/232-2721.

OFFSHOOT TOURS Ranger guided. Various topics. Saturdays 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center. 619/235-1121. Free.

INTERPRETIVE WALKS Ranger guided. History oriented topics. Meet at Visitors Center. Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM Canyoneer Walks. Sat-Sun. Sept-June. 619/232-3821 ext 203 or www.sdnhm.org for locations, times and directions. Free.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Garden Tours & Events. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or www.qbgardens.com. General Admission.

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks. Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9:00 a.m. 858/679-5469.

WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL Local Guided Walks. Newsletter. 619/231-SHOE. Free.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE Water Conservation Garden Landscape Seminar and docent-led garden tour. 2nd Saturday of each month. 9:30 a.m. 619/660-0614. Free.

GARDENING CLASSES

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13 WEEK COURSE

Landscaping: Trees, Shrubs and Flowers

Beginning Sept. 5 Tues. P.M.
Grossmont High School. 6:20 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Rm 51. 1100 Murray Dr. La Mesa. 619/644-8218 or 619/401-4122. $22

Beginning Sept. 7 Thurs. A.M.
Foothills Adult Center. 8:50 a.m.-Noon. 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. $22

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September 11-25
Vegetable Seeding and Transplanting
Monday 6:00-9:10 p.m. $15

October 2-November 6
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November 13-December 11
Fruit Tree, Vine, and Berry
Monday 6:00-9:10 p.m. $15
619/401-4122
Foothills Adult Education Center, Room 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon

Deadline for submission to **HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR** for NOVEMBER/DECEMBER issue is SEPTEMBER 15. **SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.

The Flower & Garden Show at the 2000 Del Mar Fair
THANKS ITS EXHIBITORS FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Walter Andersen Nursery
Argo Stone & Supply Co.
Armstrong Garden Centers, Inc.
Bassett Orchids
Blue Horizon
Bonita Organic Garden Club
Michael & Joyce Buckner
Cactus King & Succulents
California Association of Nurserymen
California Dept. of Forestry & Fire
California Rare Fruit Growers
Cleveland National Forest
Don & Shirley Callard
Del Mar Floral
Designs By Shellene
Earleen Diaz
East County Rose Society
El Capitan FFA
Baldomero Escodedo
Escondido FFA
EuroAmerican Propagators
Evergreen Nursery
Fallbrook High School FFA
Flowers by Jean Ann
Wayne Herder
High Country Water Lilies
KRC Rock, Inc.
La Costa Canyon
Landscapes to Behold
Lani Lambert
Paul R. Maschka
Master Composters
Miller & Steward Associates
Geri Minott & Alan McCarron
MiraCosta College
Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society
Paul Ecke Ranch
Professional Tree Care Association
Quail Botanical Gardens
Nick Rodriguez
San Diego County Farm Bureau
San Diego Fern Society
San Diego Non Bo Club
San Diego Rose Society
Santa Fe Nursery
San Dieguito Academy
San Marcos High School FFA
Slijk's Garden
Solana Recyclers
Solana Succulents
Tiny Petals Nursery
Valley Center High School FFA
V. N. Non Bo Club
Water Conservation Garden
Waterfall Oasis of San Diego
Weidner's Gardens
UCCE Master Gardeners
San Diego Floral Association
San Diego Horticultural Society
San Diego County Dept. of Ag., Wts, & Ms.

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CONGRATULATES THESE AWARD WINNERS

American Horticultural Society Citation ..... Solana Succulents
Walter Andersen Award ..... Blue Horizon
Dee Bennett Rose Award ..... San Diego Rose Society
Best Maintained Garden ..... EuroAmerican Propagators
Coordinator's Trophy ..... The Flower Fields
Cut Flower Niche Award ..... Del Mar Floral
Cuyamaca College Botanical Society ..... Evergreen Nursery
Don Diego Trophy ..... Mira Costa College
Paul Ecke, Sr. Trophy ..... Solana Succulents
Edwin Frazee Award ..... Armstrong Garden Centers
Flower & Garden Show Theme Award ..... Quail Botanical Gardens
Flower & Garden Show Theme Award, Niche ..... Flowers by Jean Ann
Hardscape Feature Award ..... Landscapes to Behold
Irrigation Award ..... Escondido FFA
Landscape Contractor's Award for Most Practical Landscape ..... Blue Horizon
Landscape Contractor's Award for Most Creative Landscape ..... Evergreen Nursery
Manager's Trophy ..... Weidner's Gardens
Massachusetts Horticultural Society Gold Medal ..... Quail Botanical Gardens
New Exhibitor Award ..... Water Conservation Garden
Patio Garden Award ..... Michael & Joyce Buckner
Philadelphia Flower Show Award ..... EuroAmerican Propagators
Royal Horticultural Society Award ..... Paul R. Mashka
San Diego County Award ..... San Diego County Farm Bureau
San Diego Floral Association Award ..... Quail Botanical Gardens
San Diego Horticultural Society "Excellence in Horticulture" Award ..... Quail Botanical Gardens
San Diego Horticultural Society Award ..... Quail Botanical Gardens
San Diego County Water Authority Awards
- 1st Place, Commercial ..... Designs By Shellene
- 1st Place, Non-Commercial ..... Quail Botanical Gardens
- 2nd Place Non-Commercial ..... Geri Minott & Alan McCarron
- 1st Place, Youth ..... Escondido FFA
- 2nd Place, Youth ..... San Marcos FFA
- Best Succulent Garden, 1st Place ..... Solana Succulents
- Best Succulent Garden, 2nd Place ... Solana Succulents Patio Garden

Unique Landscape Award ..... Solana Succulents
Water Feature Award ..... KRC Rock, Inc.
Weidner's Garden Award ..... Argo Stone & Supply
Outstanding Student Landscape Garden .. San Marcos High School FFA
Special Award ..... Pat Hammer, Samia Rose Topiary
Special Award ..... Cary Sharp, San Diego Zoological Society
Bonsai Best of Show ..... Dean Wittler
Birdhouses
- 1st Place, Unique ..... Ralph Voyles
- 1st Place, Functional ..... Paula Blum
- 1st Place, Decorative ..... Ralph Voyles

Professional Floral Design Sweepstakes ..... Ary Braun
Amateur Floral Design Sweepstakes ..... Sandi H. Lord
Miniature Floral Design Sweepstakes ..... Sandi H. Lord
Orchid Specimen Blooms Sweepstakes ..... Bassett Orchids
Dahlia Specimen Blooms Sweepstakes ..... Steven McGovern
Gladiolus Specimen Blooms Sweepstakes ..... Leslie G. Pickford
Rose Specimen Blooms Sweepstakes ..... Phil Ash

and
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Ralph Stone ASLA
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Gleanings . . .

SAN DIEGO'S FLOWER . . .
In 1969, as part of the 200th celebration, the carnation again was selected as the official city flower. (Some years before it had been selected but apparently forgotten.) The carnation was selected because it is available year-round and the flowers make lovely corsages, boutonnieres, leis, arrangements, swags, and every other flower usage. It is relatively inexpensive, too.

San Diego is blessed with a climate in which flowers are blooming twelve months a year. It would be interesting to note the visitors' first impression of San Diego's flower. If they came by car, they would be impressed by the abundance of blooming oleanders along the highway and the highway-daisies planted around many of the overpasses. If by plane, they would delight in the many exotic plantings of bird-of-paradise, daylilies, and raphiolepis along Harbor Drive—one or more are always in bloom. If by boat, they would be impressed by abundant bougainvilleas that are planted over pergolas along Fiesta Island and over the rocks bordering Harbor Island. They thrive in this climate and the colorful bracts adorn the vine most of the year.

TOMATO TRIVIA . . .
Just in case you wonder and if you are planning to grow tomatoes in a glasshouse this winter, they grow best in temperatures of 57°F. to 77° F. If it gets colder than this zone, the fruit probably will not set, and if it gets warmer, the plants may wilt or get brown foliage. Growers take care to never let the temperature in a glasshouse exceed 86° F.

TRENDY VEGETABLES . . .
The newest culinary trend is the use of microgreens as decorative additions. Microgreens are not sprouts but plants picked when the first recognizable leaves appear. Several years ago the *Wall Street Journal* advised growers with small spaces to grow herbs because of the high purchase price. Compared to herbs, microgreens are more expensive. The *Los Angeles Times* quoted the wholesale price as $35 per pound and the retail price as $60 per pound. The plants are very fragile and do not store well. So, if you want to be trendy, grow some.

CONTAINER VEGETABLES ...
Even if one does not have a garden, a grower likes to grow. It is fun to grow vegetables in containers although it is probably less expensive to purchase the vegetables. It is a wonderful experience for children to be able to grow something they eat. Many are now growing herbs or greens that can have a few leaves plucked off for salads without destroying the plants. Vegetables will grow best in a container that contains 10-20% compost or humus. Good drainage is important, too.

PUMPKIN TIME . . .
In San Diego it is better to paint the face or glue cutout features on a Halloween pumpkin because it will almost immediately rot after hollowing-out and carving. (It only works in cold climates.) It will last a bit longer if the interior is swabbed with Clorox after carving.

YELLOW PLUME FLOWER GORGEOUS IN FALL

BY ROBERT DODD

JUSTICIA AUREA OR PLUME FLOWER is a beautiful fall-blooming evergreen plant.

My plant is a cluster of stalks that grow four or five feet tall. It has attractive large lanceolate leaves year-round. The leaves are approximately six to seven inches long.

In the fall the plant flowers all at once with dramatic large golden flower plumes at the ends of the plant stalks. The flowers consist of a small-leaved, green cone-like base from which numerous small golden tubular flowers grow. The plumes are approximately five to six inches. After the flowers have withered the green-leaved cone base is attractive on its own.

I have read that the plant grows taller, the leaves longer, and the flowers bigger than my plant described above. Better planting conditions of amended soil and a sunnier location probably would produce a more abundant plant in my climate zone.

Being on the ocean side of Point Loma, fog, overcast, and little temperature variation is the typical weather. Our area close to the ocean has been called maritime weather. Generally my garden plants do not need protection from the sun.

In addition to the moist and mild climatic conditions, I mulch our very sandy soil, give additional waterings and fertilize with liquid foliar fertilizer. This plant seems very responsive to fertilizer. My plume flower is planted underneath a *Pyrus kawakamii* pear tree that blocks out sun. The pear is severely pruned in the fall to permit more sunshine to reach the plume flower. A cutting propagated plant was given to me by a personal friend some eight to ten years ago.□

Robert Dodd wrote this article for one of Betty Newton's classes—at her request. Photograph by Betty Newton.

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BAMBOO

BY ROBERT HORWITZ

MY WIFE AND I saw at the Del Mar Fair a display arranged by the San Diego Horticultural Society that featured two bamboo plants that are very rare and very beautiful.

These bamboo plants raised my curiosity about bamboo, and I started to research the literature. I have come across some very interesting things. In a book by Allen Lacy I found this: "A bamboo bearing the formidable name, *Phyllostachys bambusoides* flowered in China during the year 999. Since then, with unerring regularity, every 120 years *P. bambusoides* follows this cycle wherever it lives. In the late 1960s, Japanese stocks (themselves transplanted from China centuries before) set seed simultaneously in Japan, England, Alabama, and Russia." This gives an interesting slant to eternity. *Sunset* says that certain bamboo characteristics are intensified by root containment in containers. Some show a reduction in leaf size offset by an increase in the number of leaves. Growers tell us that there are two kinds of bamboo, the **clumping** variety and the **running** variety. Under these two categories you can find fifty or more different kinds that could fit into one's garden.

Bamboos can be planted any time of the year. Some growers prefer spring. For the most part their requirements are quite simple, use ordinary soil that is not full of clay, minimal watering, and if they are the running kind, an underground barrier to contain them as they could over the years spread too far and wide. One of the negative things said about bamboo is that it is messy. The leaves, depending on the variety, can be quite large, but that makes picking up easier.

Pruning time is when you feel like it. Bamboo is not a particular plant. The runners can be controlled with impunity so long as you leave enough roots. It usually takes two to three years for the plant to get fully established and display its individual characteristics.

One of the many uses for the vertical structure of the woody stems is to make a living fence or garden barrier. When the bamboo is mature, the barrier is pretty impenetrable, although most light gets through easily.

Quail Botanical Gardens is in association with the Bamboo Society and is an official quarantine station. According to the authorities, Quail Gardens has one of the largest bamboo collections in the country. For seeking out the rare varieties, there are two events, one in the spring and the other in the fall, when the bamboo people bring their plants to Quail Gardens for display and sales.

Bamboo is the primary nutrient of the adult panda. That relationship must have gotten established in China thousands of years ago as both the plant and the animal are native to China. Also, do not forget canned bamboo shoots when you are cooking Chinese. □

Robert Horwitz is a retired aerospace engineer who gardens in the Point Loma section of San Diego.

Arundo donax

Arundo donax is an extremely invasive plant that is often mistaken for bamboo, "green-leaved bamboo." Of the grass family, called also giant reed, it can be made into fencing.

EVERGREEN NATIVES or perhaps EVERBLUE, EVERSILVER, or EVERWHITE

BY JOHN NOBLE

IN DESIGNING ANY GARDEN that includes native plants, one should be aware of the native plants seasonal value and long-term prospects. Knowing which plant species will have a healthy year-round appearance, will enable you to create an aesthetically beautiful landscape. These are our native evergreens, so to say.

Native plants are not limited to natural gardens. Many of them have wonderful horticultural properties and are perfect for formal gardens.

Evergreen plants are perennial plants that retain their foliage throughout the year. By botanical definition the word evergreen includes all plants that retain their leaves; the actual color of the foliage is irrelevant. In hot arid climates many evergreen plants evolve foliage of grays, silvers, blues, and whites. The reflective quality of the leaves, which are sometimes covered with hairs or powders, protects the plants from the drying powers of the sun. I propose we add to our vocabulary for clarity words such as everbluegreen, everyellow, everwhite, etc. This would make our language more accurately descriptive.

If a perennial plant is not evergreen, it is said to be deciduous. Deciduous plants shed their leaves during part of the year. In cold climates the terms evergreen and deciduous are clearly evident on a white snow glistening day. The junipers and pines maintain their green foliage and shoulder the snow, while the deciduous shrubs and trees are lacy silhouettes of branches, mostly browns and grays. We can experience this in the mountains around here. Along the coast, however, the word deciduous needs distinction. The native plant community has two types of deciduous plants. The winter deciduous plants, such as desert elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), lose their leaves in the winter due to the cool temperature and lack of sunlight. The summer deciduous plants, for example black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), have evolved to leaf out during the winter wet months and then shed their dried leaves during the long hot dry summer. Many of these deciduous plants are incredibly beautiful and do well to be included in landscape, especially for their seasonal qualities.

To carry your garden through the seasons, try designing the backbone or structure of your garden with evergreen plants. Do some research. Visit local native gardens or parks for a first hand look. Late summer is the ideal time to experience how evergreen-blue-gray-white the native flora can be. After six months of dry weather, rain is welcomed. Visit the sites again in late winter when the flora is usually showing off. Use wisdom and instinct to make a plant selection that fits your garden style.

Native plants are not limited to natural gardens. Many of them have wonderful horticultural properties and are perfect for formal gardens. Beautifully trimmed hedges can be made with holly-leaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia ssp. ilicifolia*), lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*), jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*), everwhite purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), and spiny redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*). Tecate cypress (*Cupressus forbesii*) is a neat small tree that can be used in rows or as entry trees. Laced out evergreen trees such as torrey pine (*Pinus torreyana*) or California live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) can be beautiful specimen plants or planted in groves. Ceanothus (*Ceanothus griseus* 'Yankee Point') and coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis* 'Pigeon Point') can be used for neat groundcovers. Many other native plants, such as everbluegreen bladderpod (*Cleome isomeris*) with careful pruning will show off in a formal garden.

Rhus integrifolia

For a natural garden the plant palette is much larger and the garden can be wild. In front of your house, where you want to maintain some harmony with your neighbors and their landscape, use semiformal evergreen plantings for borders and transition areas. Hedges can be billowy and consist of various species. Some evergreen natives that will work as hedges include everbluegreen Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*), evergraygreen apricot abutilon (*Abutilon palmeri*), everbluegreen bush poppy (*Dendromecon harfordii*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) and ceanothus (*Ceanothus crassifolius* 'Frosty Blue').

Heteromeles arbutifolia, toyon
drawing by Alfred C. Hottes

A natural landscape can include many specimen plants. Woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*) and southern flannel bush (*Fremontodendron mexicanum*, formerly *Fremontia*) are two excellent choices. They are sensitive to grow, but the reward is worth it. A wonderful accent plant is the eversilver beach sagewort (*Artemisia pycnocephala*). If you create a rock garden include some native cacti and succulents, such as, everwhite chalk dudleya (*Dudleya pulverulenta*), Shaw's agave (*Agave shawii*), and foothill yucca (*Yucca whipplei*).

There are a million possibilities in creating a garden. The native plants evolved here. Already being adapted to the local microclimates, their water need and tolerance can range from El Niño to La Niña. Fortunately, they can naturally thrive in our seemingly poor soil. So why not work with them? These evergreen natives can be year round bridges that join the local native landscape with our homespaces.

Trichostema lanatum, woolly blue curls

Native Plant Gardens:
Quail Botanical Garden - Encinitas, Calif.
Point Loma Native Plant Preserve - San Diego, Calif.
Wild Animal Park's California Nativescapes Botanical Garden - Escondido, Calif.
Rancho Santa Anna Botanical Garden - Claremont, Calif.

Native Plant Sales:
California Native Plant Society - San Diego Chapter
October 14 Casa Del Prado - Balboa Park, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Lake Hodges Native Plant Club, Nov. 4
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Nov. 5, 9:00 a.m.-12 noon

Native Plant Nurseries:
Las Pilitas - Escondido, Calif. 760-822-1350
Tree of Life Nursery - San Juan Capistrano, Calif. 949-728-0685

Native Plant and Wildflower Seed Resource
In Harmony Herbs & Spices - Ocean Beach, Calif. 619-223-8051

Native Plant Lecture:
Private Restoration: An Unconventional Approach to Native Landscaping - Greg Rubin
California Native Plant Society - September 19, 7:30 p.m. Room 104, Casa del Prado - Balboa Park□

John Noble and his partner, Jodi Shagg, own "In Harmony Herbs and Spices" in Ocean Beach and a gardening service "Coastal Sage Gardening." He studies at Mesa College.

LAS PILITAS NATIVE PLANT NURSERY©

BY PAT PAWLOWSKI

ONE OF THE MOST CHALLENGING things that serious (and semi-serious) gardeners face in their forays to the nursery is the dearth of a good selection of native plants to choose from. In many garden centers, the native plant section is piddling in size, at best. Frustrations can mount as the gardener tries to "go native" but cannot do so, because nobody seems to carry a good selection of plants indigenous to California. However, help has arrived in the form of Las Pilitas Nursery in Escondido and its computer web site.

Las Pilitas Nursery, with its 21 acres of natives and natural areas for hiking, is located in northern Escondido, at Old Highway 395 and Nelson Way (nursery entrance is on Nelson Way). Hours are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Saturday. The phone number is 760-822-1350.

Las Pilitas has a wonderful web site — www.laspilitas.com — and when you get a gander at its home page, you'll find a list of guides with titles such as: Deer Problems; Fragrant Path; Bird Garden; Butterfly Net; and How to Plant Natives. Also listed are Landscaping Projects, Classes, Seminars, The 1000 Plants (plant descriptions with pictures), and many other titles. Use your mouse to click on any of these subjects. You'll get an enormous amount of very useful information.

Seen among Great Basin sage is one of the complete descriptive labels for each group

MIGHTY FINE IN PERSON, TOO

The nursery is a fine place to visit, also. Come to think of it, even if you do own a computer, it's still a lot more fun to come to the nursery in person to sniff the sage, fondle the fairy duster, and view the valley oak.

Also at the nursery is Valerie Phillips, the manager, who will make you feel right at home and will very helpfully answer questions. Valerie was instrumental in designing the delightful xeriscape garden at the Rincon Del Diablo Municipal Water District.

During my visit to Las Pilitas in mid-July, I enjoyed watching hawks soar overhead, their shadows sliding silently over the ground. Birds were chirping while butterflies sampled the yarrow, goldenrod, and wild radish. "Natives (plants) are very important for sustaining local wildlife. You plant natives in the yard and the insects and birds will find you," said Valerie, as we stood under the shade of a gigantic California sycamore.

The middle of summer is not the *best* time to view some natives in bloom. However, there were some nice natives in full blossom. These included a sun rose (*Helianthemum scoparium*), described as "A little nondescript perennial that grows in openings amongst shrubs. When it flowers it turns into a small sun ..." Also listed on the plant label was every cultural requirement you could think of. Another bloomer was a light purple multicolored snapdragon (*Antirrhinum multiflorum*).

There were the pale yellow monkey flowers (*Mimulus sp.*), woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*), red-orange California fuchsia (*Zauschneria sp.*), pale blue erigeron (*Erigeron glaucus* 'Wayne Roderick') and red-flowered mountain pride (*Penstemon newberryi sonomensis*).

Tiny red strawberries twinkled on a California strawberry (*Fragaria californica*) plant.

A display garden contained buffalo berry (*Shepherdia argentea*), brown dogwood (*Cornus glabrata*), *Rosa woodsii glabrata*, pink flowered currant (*Ribes sanguineum glutinosum*), Douglas baccharis (*Baccharis douglasii*) and many other natives.

My friend bought a gorgeous sierra columbine (*Aquilegia pubescens*), perhaps swept away by its clear vibrant yellow flower.

And I acquired several mountain dandelions (*Agoseris sp.*). The wonderful fluffy seedheads were

gigantic; all the individual seeds had harnessed themselves to their tiny floss parachutes and were ready to take off into the wild blue yonder. Having a feud with the neighbors? Grow one of these industrial-strength dandelions. Wait until the wind is right, and the humongous seed head is nice and fluffy with seeds ready to disperse. Gently—gently!—cut the stem. Carry to property line—remember, the wind has to be moving toward the neighbor's pristine grass-only lawn.

Position the dandelion.

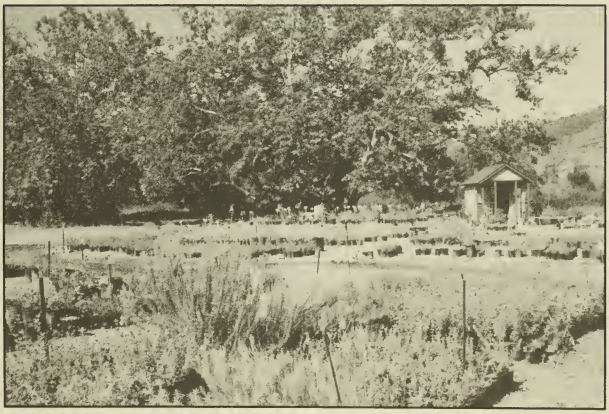
Blow.

A mountain dandelion can proliferate itself very easily. Thus you can serve ALL your neighbors, if you are so inclined.

THE CATALOG

Also for sale at the nursery is a wonderfully comprehensive catalog that contains much of the information that is included in the web site, including directions for planting natives, habitat descriptions, in-depth planting instructions, a butterfly-attracting plant list, and over 1,000 different plant species.

Especially bodacious are the descriptions and comments about each plant. As you read, it feels like you are leaning over the backyard fence and talking plants with your friendly neighbor (NOT the one whose property gets the dandelion seeds) who is ultra-smart about native plants and is more than willing to share that knowledge.



For example, here is an excerpt from the description of the vigor of a happy Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*):

". . . I put in three of them that were 3 inches tall . . . at our dentist's place. He kept wondering what those 'little grey things' were. I couldn't figure out what he was talking about until six months later when he started complaining about that 'big grey plant' with 'nice big white flowers but it was 6 feet tall and growing everywhere.' Now he talks of exploits involving machetes. . ." [Bert Wilson, *A Manual of California Native Plants*, 1996]

Other information about the poppy included: native habitat, plant type, light requirement, soil type and soil Ph range, water requirement, drainage requirement, flower and leaf color, size, if it attracted butterflies or birds, and if it was appealing to deer.

THEY OWE IT ALL TO MOM

Everybody has a mother (well, almost everybody), and the Las Pilitas Nursery in Escondido has one too. The parent nursery is located on 82 acres in Santa Margarita, which is in central California. Las Pilitas is owned by Bert and Celeste Wilson. Since 1974 the Wilsons have been involved with the ecology of California native plants and numerous restoration projects. They are said to grow more plant species indigenous to California than any other nursery in California. They do retail, wholesale and mail order.

Native cultivars that they have introduced include *Ceanothus* 'Remote Blue', *Salvia clevelandii* 'Pozo Blue', and *Penstemon heterophyllus* 'Margarita BOP'.

NATIVES, NATURALLY

In retrospect, we can see that a modification in perspective—i.e., realizing that our yards don't have to look like they fell out of the pages of some glossy back-east garden magazine—can help to make our lives easier and more fun. If we plant the proper natives, our outdoor areas will be friendlier to wildlife like birds and butterflies, easier and cheaper to maintain, amazingly lovely at times, and lots more interesting to boot.

And now we find that Las Pilitas Nursery's computer web site can help us achieve our gardening goals, too:

Natives you grow
Will bring a glow;
And a web and mice
Can be quite nice.□

Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer/lecturer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens. Photographs by Betty Newton.

MALVACEAE: THE MALLOW FAMILY

BY TOM PIERGROSSI

THE MALLOW FAMILY CONTAINS over ninety-five genera, including some of our most important and beautiful herbs, trees, and shrubs. The most recognizable member is probably *Hibiscus*. The most important is *Gossypium herbaceum*, or as we know it, cotton, from Arabia. Many of our favorite ornamentals belong in the mallow family.

Gossypium herbaceum, cotton

I like knowing the family because it gives an insight on how better to grow and propagate the plants I like. Mallows are easy to recognize by the flower, typically a bell-shaped flower, closed or opened, five petals with the stamens united in a long central tube. The leaves are palmately-veined and arranged alternately on the stems.

The most commonly-seen hibiscus in Southern California, *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* (Chinese hibiscus), comes from tropical Asia. It is not from Hawaii as most people think, although it is the state flower there. Over five thousand varieties have been hybridized. Many people collect their favorites and belong to the American Hibiscus Society. Originally *Hibiscus* flowers, which last only one day, were eaten raw to aid in digestion. In Tahiti, a flower behind the right ear signifies availability. Another tropical *Hibiscus* is *H. tiliaceus*, the **hau** tree, common in Hawaii and frequently seen growing on the beach there. The plant's bark has been used to make rope and tapa cloth. The single flowers start out yellow in the morning, change to orange by afternoon, and turn red by evening. It also does well

Hibiscus moscheutos

here in San Diego. A variegated form has white splashy marking with pink highlights. *Hibiscus schizopetalus,* from tropical eastern Africa, is a tall plant to about fifteen feet and bears small hanging flowers that look like little dancing dolls. This one needs heat to do well; near the coast, put it near a wall to benefit from the reflected heat.

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis

There are also *Hibiscus* species from colder regions. *H. syriacus,* or rose-of-Sharon, is from eastern Asia. It is a deciduous shrub and a good substitute for tropical *Hibiscus* in areas that frost. *H. moscheutos,* or rose mallow, is a garden hybrid with huge 12-inch wide blooms. The plant dies to the ground in winter, but quickly recovers to 6 feet by summer. It loves heat, and is very cold hardy. The first ones I saw were in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Hibiscus syriacus, rose-of-Sharon

A common annual mallow is hollyhock, *Alcea rosea*. It comes from the Mediterranean region. It is really a biennial, growing the first year and blooming the next, towering to 6 feet or more, giving tall spires of colorful flowers. For all their showiness, there are some drawbacks to growing them in our climate. They are prone to insect damage and can get diseases like mildew and rust. Even with that, it is still a popular plant, with many romantic associations.

Lavatera assurgentiflora, tree mallow

Malva moschata, musk mallow

Anisodontea, the cape or rose mallow, is a popular shrub with light pink flowers that actually does better with less water. Please note that *Hibiscus moscheutos* is also called rose mallow, which is an example of why it is so important to know the botanical names when buying plants.

Lavatera bicolor (L. maritima), from the Mediterranean, is also a drought-tolerant shrub for full sun. It has soft light green leaves and lavender flowers with a purple center. This has to be one of the easiest shrubs to grow. Quickly reaching 6 feet or more and almost never out of bloom, it should be used more. It is best used in informal settings. Other *Lavatera*s include our native *L. assurgentiflora,* and *L. trimestris,* the Mediterranean tree mallow. *Lavatera*s are short-lived but are easy to reproduce and often reseed in the garden on their own. There are also annual and perennial *Lavatera*s.

Although its botanical name is *Alyogyne huegelii,* it is commonly called blue hibiscus. This Australian native has been very popular the last ten years or so. It has coarse, hairy leaves and sparkling blue flowers. *A. huegelii* is an 8-foot tall shrub and very easy to grow. It is not picky about soil but does not like to dry out the first year, like many Australian plants. Many color forms are available; an extra dark purple form is particularly attractive.

Lagunaria patersonii, the cow itch tree, is also from Australia, Queensland specifically. Named for the irritating fibers in the mature seeds, it is a tall, narrow tree with felted small foliage and small pink flowers. It has an incredible drought tolerance once established.

*Abutilon*s or flowering maples, also belong to this family; they are of hybrid origin, but most of their blood is Asian and South American. They are short-lived and somewhat gangly in habit. They are, however, nonstop garden performers. The bell-like flowers hang from branch ends year-round, attracting hummingbirds. They come in an unbelievable array of flower colors and sizes. They make easy cuttings and are often a pass along plant. Hybridization is easy and many hobbyists work with this plant. Closely related is *Sida fallax* (common Hawaiian name, **ilima**) from the Pacific Islands, a popular flower used to make leis. They have golden yellow flowers, grayish or green foliage and can be large shrubs or ground covers.

Malvaviscus arboreus mexicanus, the Turk's-cap, is a common shrub in Balboa Park, having escaped into the

canyons. Turk's-cap has a red flower that looks like a small hibiscus that never fully opens. Several pink forms also exist. *Pavonia multiflora,* from Brazil, shares this closed flowering trait. It has shiny, dark green foliage that is slender and pointed and bears clusters of flowers terminally. The flowers are red with a purple center and are very showy. This tropical shrub is narrow and upright and can be grown in part shade.

Lagunaria patersonii, cow itch tree
Drawing by Alfred C. Hottes

When you know what to look for, it is easy to see similarities in plants of the Malvaceae. They come from all over the globe and in incredible diversity. Most grow very well in San Diego; see what other mallows you can find and grow. □

Tom Piergrossi is a local landscape designer with a small wholesale nursery in his backyard in Vista (open Mondays, 760/598-4882).

ROLAND HOYT BOOK REPRINT

ORNAMENTAL PLANTS FOR SUBTROPICAL REGIONS by Roland Hoyt has been reprinted by his sons. The book has been available only at rare book stores until now. (Going Rate $65.00) Bill and Mike have donated the books to San Diego Floral Association. The books will sell for $14.50 (tax included). $10 of each book sale will be added to the scholarship fund established in the name of Ethel and Roland Hoyt. The books are available at the San Diego Floral office in Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. They can be mailed.

If you are a newcomer to San Diego you probably do not know about Roland Hoyt. He was one of our earliest landscape architects and is responsible for the landscaping of Mission Bay, the Community Concourse, and many noteworthy gardens around the city. At the time this book was written, there was no guide for Southern California that listed plants by their needs and requirements. It is still the most reliable guide available. The later half of the book is a writen description and sketch of each plant in alphabetical order. In recent years many scientific names have been changed but there is an updated nomeclature list at the end of the book. The original 1940 book was published as a pocketbook, but this is enlarged—it is a handsome hardback book 7" x 10½". The price of the book (tax included) is $14.50. Handling and postage is an additional $3.00.

ORNAMENTAL PLANTS FOR SUBTROPICAL REGIONS
Roland Hoyt

Price $17.50
(TAX, POSTAGE,SHIPPING INCLUDED)

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
1650 EL PRADO ROOM 105
SAN DIEGO CA 92101

Ship To:

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ADDRESS:

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Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND *CALIFORNIA GARDEN* STAFF

AFRICAN VIOLETS
Helen LaGamma

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP violets well groomed.

TO KEEP the area clean. Continue to wipe down the growing area with mild solution of Lysol and water.

TO SPRAY the leaves with warm water; cool water will chill the plants.

TO LEAVE air space between the plants.

TO KEEP pans of wet pebbles among the plants for added humidity; very important during hot weather.

TO USE cool light tubes — keep plants out of direct sunlight.

BEGONIAS
Margaret Lee

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FEED tuberous begonias in September as long as the leaves remain green.

TO START withholding water from the tuberous variety in October and do not feed them again.

TO GIVE a final feeding of the year to your regular begonias in October, unless you have fed all year with a balanced fertilizer.

TO TAKE cuttings and plant them to increase your collection and to share.

BONSAI
San Diego Bonsai Club

NOW IS THE TIME

TO ADJUST watering schedule to the variable weather. Shallow pots may require two or three daily waterings on hot, dry, windy days.

TO TRANSPLANT wisteria if you want blossoms next spring.

TO REPOT quince, olives, and podocarpus.

TO MOVE deciduous trees to cool, shaded areas if you live in Southern California so they will not sprout any new growth.

TO FERTILIZE only lightly or not at all in October if you fertilized in September.

TO WAIT until spring for any major transplanting.

BROMELIADS
Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER plants according to the weather (temperature), but do not allow the soil to become soggy.

TO CUT new offshoots (pups) and pot them while weather is still warm. Offshoots must be ⅓ to ½ the size of the mother plant.

TO KEEP plants clean by cutting spent blooms and dead leaves.

TO REPOT plants that need larger pots (use next size larger).

TO ALWAYS USE new potting mix, making sure it is one that allows fast drainage.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS
Joseph A. Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH plants and fertilize less as they go dormant. The winter growers need more fertilizer and water as they start to grow.

TO MAINTAIN the growth pattern of the plant. Look for signs of growth as the season changes.

TO WATCH weather situations as changes can occur very fast in our area. Be sure to protect from the hot days that still may occur.

TO TRANSPLANT actively growing seedlings and rooted cuttings now so they can get established before winter.

TO CLEAN the area where plants are grown.

TO PREVENT insect pests from building into major problems. Look at your plants carefully and check for mealybugs, mites, aphids, and snails; treat appropriately.

CAMELLIAS
San Diego Camellia Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MAINTAIN a regular watering program during development to keep plants damp but not soggy.

TO SPRAY with Sun-spray ultra fine oil or

Malathion to control insects.
TO START or continue to disbud for better blooms, leaving one bud per cluster or one bud per branch for show quality blooms.
TO CONTINUE feeding with cottonseed fertilizer.
TO APPLY iron and zinc supplement, if indicated by pale foliage with darker green veins.
TO PROTECT plants from full sun to prevent burn.
TO MULCH to keep plants cool.

DAHLIAS
Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME
TO CLEAN up old leaves and stalks, preparing for fall and winter.
TO SPRAY to prevent mildew and spider mites.
TO MAINTAIN a regular watering program until the first of October, then cut down watering gradually.
TO FEED with potash to promote good root growth. It also helps to keep plants healthier during the winter.

EPIPHYLLUMS (Orchid Cactus)
San Diego Epiphyllum Society

NOW IS THE TIME
TO PROTECT plants from exposure to direct sunlight.
TO SPRAY-MIST to provide moisture during warm spells and keep stems clean and free of dust. Spraying of foliage occasionally can be beneficial.
TO PREVENT soil from completely drying out.
TO PROTECT new growth from wind damage; stake plants and carefully tie to a trellis.
TO CHECK for snails and slugs; a few granules of Sluggeta at the base of the plant are often effective and leave little to no residue.
TO GIVE plants a final feeding for fall — use a balanced fertilizer before they become semi-dormant.

FERNS
San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME
TO REMOVE dead fronds.
TO PLANT spores of all varieties.
TO PROTECT from hot sun, but give maximum light.
TO WATER and maintain humidity by keeping surrounding areas damp but not soggy.
TO FERTILIZE once with high nitrogen fertilizer.
TO CHECK for aphids, mealy bugs and scale; if present, use Malathion-50.
TO KEEP snails, pill bugs and slugs under control use metaldehyde granules.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES
Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME
TO CONTINUE periodic, thorough irrigation to maintain adequate soil moisture until winter rains begin.
TO OPERATE drip irrigation systems until we receive at least two inches of rain to prevent salt injury.
TO PRUNE out dead and severely damaged shoots of deciduous trees before foliage drops.
TO COVER maturing grape clusters with paper bags (poke small holes in the bags for ventilation) to protect maturing fruit from yellow jackets and birds.
TO CHECK on maturity of kiwi fruit. Maturity is measured by a change in seed color from white to brown or black. Pick large fruit first, but harvest before fruit softens.

FUCHSIAS
San Diego Fuchsia and Shade Plant Society

NOW IS THE TIME
TO PICK off spent blooms and seed pods.
TO MAINTAIN humidity by keeping areas sprayed. Be careful not to overwater, but mist during hot, dry, windy days. It is best to water in the early morning or in the cool of evening.
TO CONTINUE fertilizing for fall and winter blooms.
TO SPRAY as required for insect control. Be sure to wet the underside of leaves, the hiding place for egg laying.
TO MAKE cuttings while removing leggy growth — use the tender tips. October is a better month to propagate new plants.
TO KEEP cuttings in a cool place for four to six days; keep moist but not wet or soggy.

GERANIUMS (Pelargoniums)
Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME
TO WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Water in advance of a Santa Ana. Keep foliage as dry as possible.
TO CONTINUE feeding soilless mixes with a soluble balanced fertilizer containing micronutrients. Use less

than the recommended amount, but apply as often as necessary to avoid nutritional deficiencies.

TO CONTINUE a pest control and disease prevention program using all products according to the manufacturers' instructions.

TO BEGIN pruning, even if plants are still blooming. On regals, scenteds, and similar types at least one green leaf should be left on each stem being cut back.

TO MAKE cuttings from prunings. Trim and insert into a moistened, sterile medium. Shelter cuttings from extreme weather.

TO KEEP all the plants tidy by removing faded flowers and discolored leaves.

TO CONTINUE to rotate plants on a regular basis in order to keep them well shaped.

HERBS
John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME

TO HARVEST and dry ginkgo leaves, yerba mansa roots, rose hips, lemon grass leaves, vitex berries, comfrey roots, fennel seeds, coral bell roots, ...

TO DRY flowers for bouquets and wreaths. Include roses, lavender, sweet annie, statice, yarrow ...

TO PRUNE back dried leaves and dried flowers of the summer flowering perennials—daylily, lily-of-the-nile, foxglove, feverfew, mullein, mint, sage, thyme.

TO AMEND the garden with fresh compost.

TO PLANT saffron bulbs, mints, parsley, calendula, rosemary, lavender, ...

TO WALK through your herb garden after the first rain and inhale the wonderful scents that you have planted.

IRIS
San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CLEAN beds and discard old fans and debris.

TO DIVIDE and plant clumps of bearded irises.

TO FEED established tall bearded that are not being divided.

TO PLANT beardless irises: spuria, Siberian, Louisiana, and Japanese varieties. Louisiana and Japanese are grown in pots, pools or in swampy conditions.

TO PLANT Dutch irises in October for spring bloom.

NATIVES
Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO GET ready for fall planting. Plants will be available in October and early November at various sales throughout the state.

TO HAVE the location selected and the ground prepared making sure that the drainage is good for the drought-tolerant natives. If you have a boggy area, consider *Anemopsis, Mimulus guttatus,* or *M. cardinalis*. These are all water loving natives.

TO INCREASE the watering schedule as our normal rainfall period approaches. When watering, always make sure that the water goes down below the roots. Drought tolerance is based on deep rooting, which is based on infrequent deep waterings.

TO DIG holes twice as deep and twice as wide as the plant you are putting in. Then mix a good potting soil 50-50 with native soil. Water well when planting and again in 2-3 days to insure that there are no air pockets around the roots.

TO FERTILIZE with a weak solution. I find that ½ strength is about right for the natives.

TO REMOVE weeds. Natives find it difficult to compete with weeds, which rob the soil of nutrients and water.

ORCHIDS
Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO STAY alert for Santa Ana winds with their high heat and low humidity. Frequent misting during this debilitating period will help plants, including orchids.

TO START Nobile *Dendrobium* on a 0-10-10 diluted fertilizer program. Be sure to leach the traces of other fertilizers from the pot. When the leaves drop from your Nobile *Dendrobium*, stop fertilizing and watering —just keep the pot damp over winter and protect from total freeze. When the new leaves start in spring, after plants flower, resume watering.

TO WATCH *Paphiopedilum* during hot dry days. Remember this is a transition period (we may see a rapid decline in warm weather in October). *Paphiopedilum* and other non-bulbous orchids have no water storage capacities and must be misted more at this time than at any other.

TO WATCH for snails and slugs—see your local nursery person for the latest in pest control. Keep a sharp watch for red spider—they grow and multiply during this time of year. When spraying, get under the leaves—that is where they congregate. Use insecticides that are non-petroleum based. Again, see your nursery person for proper application.

TO MIST seedlings and other plants early in the morning to prevent shock of cold water on warm leaves. Also, when watering your *Phalaenopsis*, try to

water in the early part of the day. *Phalaenopsis* and other Vandacious orchids can take a great amount of light if the leaves are cooled by generous air movement to take the heat away from the hot leaves. Cold water on warm leaves will cause tissue to break down and die.

TO SHUT down the swamp cooler when the weather cools at the end of October. Drain the bottom and unplug the unit. Oil the motor and the oil cups on the fan. Patch any holes in the bottom with a patching compound. Check the water pump and cover for the winter.

ROSES
Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REMOVE those bushes that have been less than satisfactory after several growing seasons.

TO PREPARE your bushes for fall bloom by removing twiggy, dead, or diseased growth, and reduce canes that are leggy and out of proportion to the plant. Remove all diseased leaves, paint any cuts the size of pencil or larger with white glue to deter borers that may appear at this time of the year.

TO REFRESH mulch or cultivate soil around bushes to remove weeds and improve water penetration. Continue to water deeply by flooding the basin around each bush several times each watering period. The most economical method of watering is hand watering and it is a great time to really SEE your plants.

TO LEARN to adjust to varying weather conditions, such as Santa Ana winds. Maintain moisture level in ground and keep foliage clean by washing down early in the morning.

TO VISIT fall flower shows and/or gardens whenever the opportunity arises to observe plants during their fall bloom, often the most beautiful of the year.

TO REALIZE that all roses vary in their growth habits, color, form, and quality of bloom based upon the locale where they are planted. Roses grown in coastal communities seldom do as well in areas in East County where heat and dry conditions will provide a completely different environment. The moist coastal climate will produce excessive mildew on some varieties. New introductions frequently produce large plants (6′ to 7′ tall). Is your garden suitable for a bush of that size?

VEGETABLES
Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REMOVE warm-season vegetables badly damaged by pests or diseases and those that are past their prime production period.

TO PREPARE soil for planting cool-season vegetables by incorporating composted organic matter and a pre-plant fertilizer high in phosphorus. Begin planting cool-season vegetables: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive, fava beans, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, parsley, peas, potatoes (white), spinach, and turnips.

TO BUY seed of short-day onion hybrids like 'Grano', and 'Granex', as well as garlic cloves to plant in November for bulb production next summer. Onion sets can be planted for a quick crop of green onions but not for bulbs.

TO DIG sweet potatoes before any danger of frost. Be careful not to bruise roots. Dry thoroughly (one to two weeks), wrap in newspaper, and store close to 60°F.

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS
from UC Cooperative Extension Publications

NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF: broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower — aster, baby's breath, canterbury bell, carnation, cineraria, daisy (African, Shasta, English), delphinium, Chinese forget-me-not, foxglove, hollyhock, lobelia (in Sept.), pot marigold (*Calendula officinalis*), fairy primrose (*Primula malacoides*), snapdragon, stock (*Matthiola incana*), sand verbena (*Abronia umbellata*), ranunculus, sweet William, pansy and viola.

TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onions (dry, in Oct.), parsley, parsnips, peas, potatoes (Sept.), radishes, spinach, and turnips— alyssum, baby blue eyes, baby's breath, bachelor's button, African daisy, candytuft, columbine, gloriosa daisy (in Oct.), delphinium, forget-me-not, Chinese forget-me-not, gazania, hollyhock, and wildflowers.

IN ADDITION TO SOME OF THE ABOVE, ALSO SUGGESTED (by Hortus "the art of gardening", 284 East Orange Grove Blvd., Pasadena CA) **ARE: NATIVES—** *Ceanothus* 'Concha', *Arctostaphylos* (manzanita) 'Howard McMinn', *Salvia apiana*, *Romneya coulteri* (matilija poppy), and *Penstemon spectabilis*. **—WILDFLOWERS—** *Clarkia amoena* and *unguiculata*, Flanders Field poppy, larkspur (*Consolida ambigua* and *C. regalis*), and scarlet flax.

YOUR OWN GARDEN OF EDEN

BY MARIANNE TRUBY

HAVING LIVED IN THE same area of Chula Vista for forty-five years and observing the ups and downs of efforts to promote water-wise gardens throughout our area, it is clear to me the results have been less than ideal. Unfortunately **low maintenance** is all too frequently interpreted to mean NO maintenance! I have watched too many yards turn into weed patches that become parking lots for additional vehicles of various types.

Is it really possible to have a low-maintenance garden? Does it mean you will be confined to growing natives that put on a glorious burst of bloom and foliage after spring rains (when they come), and then turn brown and dry up until the following spring?

It is not like purchasing carpeting for your home. It does require a thorough understanding of what will make you happy, and how much you are willing to contribute to your everchanging landscape.

cormous *Hesperantha* species

Even native plants require maintenance to remain healthy and beautiful. They must be pruned at the right time of the year. Some of them need to be "whacked back"! Twiggy growth and suckers should be thinned to increase light and air circulation at least every other year. Trees benefit from thinning before the Santa Ana winds and winter storms arrive. Many perennials need to be drastically cut back to the ground every couple of years, while others such as bush anemone (*Carpenteria californica*) do not always resprout from woody stems. Check for leaf buds on the stem below the cut. Encourage branching on your penstemon by removing spent flowers and trimming plant material as needed.

The terms annual and perennial are all but meaningless here in Southern California because plants flower at unexpected times. By including some plant materials that are long flowering and low maintenance you will present a year-around garden of interest and pleasure in your water-wise garden.

My neighbors have been enthusiastic about new plantings of *Leonotis leonurus* (lions-tail) and the Mexican sage framing the yellow single-flowered 'Captain Thomas' clinging rose. Lion's tail is a striking upright plant and provides a magnificent colorful display late spring through early winter when properly cared for. It is suitable as a back border or hedge pant, a sun-loving perennial and very drought tolerant. Blooms should be cut to below spent blooms and will provide cut blooms throughout most of the year. It is easily started from cuttings.

Newcomers to Southern California are surprised to learn that October is considered the best planting month of the year. Plan to pick up some of the many bulbs available now and plant them at various areas of your garden. They will surprise you later with their beauty and most of them may stay in the ground to bloom yet another year. Chasmanthe, extremely drought resistant and visible throughout the area in early spring, with its graceful orange flowers bursting through other less colorful vegetation, will delight your visitors.

To learn about gardens in our area take every advantage to visit existing public and private gardens. Later visit your local garden center with your list of wants and no matter how large or small your area you can create YOUR EDEN.

Yes, it will require some study and effort! □

abundant growth in Mission Hills, San Diego

CONSIDER A CUTTING GARDEN

BY LIZ BALL

EVERYONE LOVES TO GIVE and receive flowers. So great is their appeal that fresh cut flowers play a role in the celebration of holidays and the milestones of family and personal life over much of the world. It is a particular luxury to have fresh flowers on display at home on a daily basis. What a delight it is to be surrounded indoors by bouquets and arrangements of fragrant, colorful blossoms—to have a bit of the garden in the house.

For gardeners the ultimate pleasure is to be able to cut flowers from their own garden to bring indoors and to give away to friends and family. Many also love to have homegrown blossoms, foliage, and seedheads handy for fresh or dried floral crafts and cooking. However, the problem is always that picking flowers from the garden reduces the floral show in the yard. It is always a tough decision whether to cut flowers for indoors or leave them on display outdoors. The perfect solution to this problem is to establish a separate cultivated area specifically as a cutting garden. Then you can have your flowers and pick them too!

Fill your cutting garden with plants that produce the flowers and foliage you love. Use it as an area to experiment with new plants and colors. Place it where it is not on public display, and indulge your fancy. Consider making it part of your vegetable garden. This is a production garden; created to be cut down, so do not worry about design correctness.

Creating a cutting garden

Create a cutting garden much the same way you initially establish a flower garden. Choose a site that receives generous sun and prepare the soil so that it drains well. Add humus in the form of compost, peat moss, or chopped leaves to improve clay or sandy soil. Create one or more beds of whatever size and shape accommodate the available space. They can be tucked into sunny spots along the back boundary, in a neglected corner, or behind the garage. By their very nature, they are transient, so they are easily changed or reconfigured next season if necessary.

While cutting gardens often look beautiful at the peak of the season, this is incidental. So, because they are not intended for display, a purely utilitarian layout makes the most sense. Then once they are established they are easier to maintain and require much less attention than ornamental beds. For this reason, cutting gardens usually resemble traditional vegetable gardens. They are typically planted in widely spaced rows that are easy to move through and between while planting, thinning, fertilizing, deadheading, and, of course, harvesting.

Managing a cutting garden

Be sure and mix into the soil a granular, slow-acting fertilizer at the beginning of the season. This will provide consistent, balanced nutrition to the plants over many, many weeks. Periodic doses of dilute liquid fertilizer sprayed on plant foliage will boost the energy of certain heavy blooming plants during peak production.

Rather than interplant seeds or young transplants of many different kinds of flowers, group the species of plants for efficient use of space and easy harvest. To get maximum production, plant annuals in succession—early season, mid-season and late season bloomers grouped together. Cluster plants with similar requirements for sun, water, and drainage for easier maintenance. Plant tall types together, away from where they might shade smaller ones.

To minimize watering and weeding maintenance, spread a 2 or 3 inch layer of some organic mulch on the soil around the plants in the cutting garden as soon as they are a few inches tall. It does not have to be attractive, so use whatever is inexpensive and at hand, such as chopped leaves, shredded newspaper, or straw. The mulch will discourage weeds, keep the soil moist longer, and contribute nutrients to the soil as it decomposes in the heat of summer. Add to the mulch layer if it breaks down to less than an inch. If you grow plants that are notorious self-seeders, such as spider flower (cleome), removing the mulch at the end of the season will help to clear away most of the seeds as well.

To spur and maintain flower production of annuals, pick blossoms regularly. Deadhead those that remain and become faded. This prevents them from forming seeds, which slows flower production. Water about an inch per week if rainfall is unreliable. Unmulched beds will need more frequent watering, especially in the summer. Keep a look out for aphids on tender young growth or on plants that are stressed and unhappy. Pinch infested tips off or wash the foliage with a strong stream of water from the hose. Insecticidal soap spray will take care of stubborn infestations.

As soon as the blossoms from one stand of flowers have been cut, and/or the plants begin to weaken; pull them, cultivate the bed, and plant new seedlings to provide cut flowers for the weeks to come. For instance, plant only pansies in an area for an early season supply

of flowers. Then, when summer heat arrives, replace them in that area with American marigolds or zinnias.

Plants for the cutting garden

Lots of different kinds of flowering plants are suitable for a cutting garden. Long-stemmed annuals or perennials are most useful. Typically, colorful annual flowers dominate these gardens, because they are such enthusiastic bloomers. Cutting their blossoms only encourages them to produce more. All kinds of daisies are enormously popular and combine well with lots of other flowers.

Long blooming perennials have a place in the cutting garden as well as in the more formal flower border. Plants such as coral bells and fringed bleeding heart will produce flowers all season, especially if they are regularly picked. Some, such as purple coneflowers and black-eyed susans produce bold, bristly seedheads that are ideal for floral crafts. Of course perennials can be depended upon to bloom next season—no need to replant that part of the cutting garden.

Don't forget foliage plants that contribute texture and color to both fresh and dried arrangements. Silver-leafed artemisia varieties, lamb's ears and herbs such as lavender contribute grayish-silver foliage that is both handsome and aromatic.

The following is a list of suggested annuals, perennials, and foliage plants. **This list is just a beginning.** There are certainly more cut flowers available.

Calendula officinalis

Annuals for a cutting garden.

Ageratum (Floss Flower)
Amaranthus caudatus (Love-Lies-Bleeding)
Ammi majus (Bishop's Flower)

Cosmos bipinnatus

Anemone
Bells-of-Ireland
Calendula
Callistephus chinesis (China aster)
Campanula
Celosia, cristata group (Cockscomb)
Celosia plumosa group (Feather)
Celosia spicata group (Wheat)
Centaurea (Bachelors' Button)
Cleome (Spider Flower)
Cosmos
Dianthus
Dill
Dimorphoteca sinuata (Cape Marigold)
Eustoma (Lisianthus)
Geranium
Gomphrena (Globe Amaranth)
Gypsophila (Baby's Breath)
Helichrysum (Strawflower)
Helipterum (Everlasting)
Marigold
Matthiola (Stock)
Nicotiana (Flowering Tobacco)
Nigella damascena (Love-In-A-Mist)
Pansy
Petunia
Phlox
Reseda odorata (Mignonette)
Salpiglossis
Salvia farinacea

Scabiosa (Pincushion flower)
Snapdragon
Statice
Sunflower
Sweet Pea
Verbena bonariensis
Zinnia

Coreopsis grandiflora

Perennials for a cutting garden
Achillea (Yarrow)
Aster
Campanula
Carnation
Chrysanthemum, such as Shasta Daisy
Coreopsis
Delphinium
Dianthus deltoides (pinks)
Digitalis (Foxglove)
Echinacea (Purple Coneflower)
Echinops exaltatus (Globe Thistle)
Gypsophila (Baby's Breath)
Heuchera (Coral Bells)
Kniphofia (Red Hot Poker)
Lavender
Lobelia
Lupine
Nicotiana (Flowering Tobacco)
Phlox
Poppy (Shirley or Iceland)
Rudbeckia (Black-Eyed Susan)
Sages
Solidago (Goldenrod)
Veronica

Foliage for a cutting garden
Asparagus densiflorus
Coleus
Dusty Miller
Eucalyptus
Euphorbia (Snow-on-the- Mountain)
Flowering Cabbage
Flowering Kale
Sage, tri-color□

From "Today's Garden," a bulletin of the National Garden Bureau, 1311 Butterfield Road, Suite 310, Downers Grove IL 60515, telephone 630/963-0770

Animated Gardens
garden design to attract butterflies & hummingbirds
Pat Pawlowski
(619) 390-9399

Sitting by the rushing river - on the leaves of reeds that quiver, Faeries gaze at skies so blue - while sipping tea of morning dew.
In Harmony
Herbs & Spices
Herbs to Nourish the Body and Spirit
Organic & Wildcrafted
Herbal Products
~ Since 1986 ~
Wildflower Seeds
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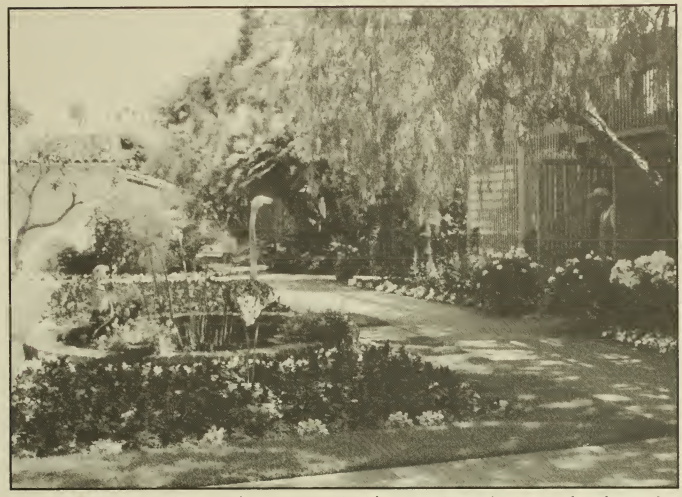
HAVE YOU VISITED SHERMAN LIBRARY AND GARDENS?

BY BETTY NEWTON



Entry courtyard. Bright salvia, purple and white annuals, and a lawn edge the pool.

A VISITOR TO SHERMAN LIBRARY and Gardens in Corona del Mar, southwest of Los Angeles exhaled in satisfaction and glowed. "Perfect! This is just wonderful!" he pronounced shortly after entering. The group had just come from a rather dry arboretum's grounds and the contrast was great. Sherman Gardens *is* a beautiful place.

Founded in 1966, the fulfillment of the dream of Arnold D. Haskill, the garden is named for his friend and mentor Moses Sherman. Behind a distinctive white brick and gray lath wall lies one city block filled with compact, meticulously maintained gardens. It is easy to think of Sherman Gardens as all one garden because the peripheral plantings, grass, annuals, attractive hardscaping, and some exotics give it unity. Note the giant *Ligularia* (with pancake-sized leaves) growing at the base of a king palm in such an area.

The formal, but warm, beauty of the entry patio will please you, too. There, a 10-foot circle-pond is graced by metal bird sculptures and tall papyrus, surrounded by brilliant annual flowers, and a vibrant green, well-trimmed lawn edging. Off to the right of this entry is a great lathhouse featuring all the lush green and tropical flowering plants you can think of. See pictures taken there of a cabbage palm, *Livistona australis*, a casual group of orchids, and ferns and bromeliads gathered at a small waterfall.

Many visitors are enchanted by a standard feature, *big* hanging baskets of blooming tuberous begonias, fibrous begonias, and fuchsias—gorgeous through the long warm months and into the coast's mild winter. (The gardening crew here numbers fourteen.) I believe I most appreciated the large bo tree, *Ficus religiosa,* (an appropriate buddha at the base), a chance

Looking down at young cabbage palm, *Livistona australis*, caladium beneath.

Ferns, bromeliads, and philodendron

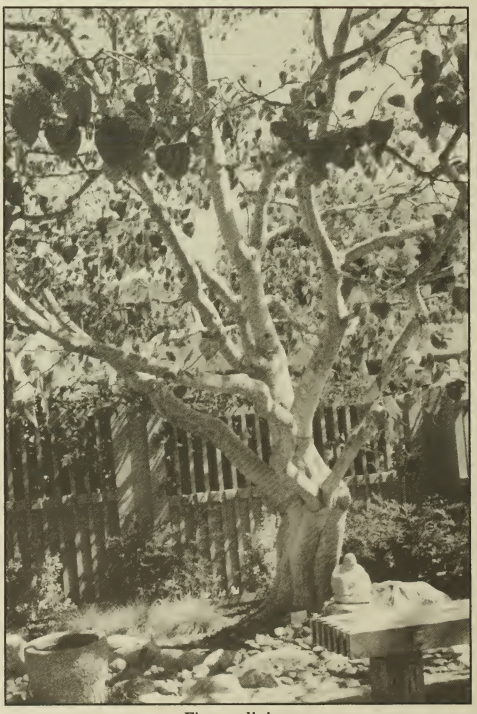
[See the San Diego Floral Association Bus Tour page for a trip to Sherman Gardens in September.]

Betty Newton teaches gardening classes at Grossmont Adult School and writes for the Sunday San Diego Union Tribune. Photographs by the author.

to see the poof-flowers atop a Chinese fringe tree (*Chionanthus retusus),* and the 12-inch, maplelike leaves of Chinese parasol tree, *Firmiana simplex.* These gardens will stir your plant-loving soul. A recently-planted border of drought-resistant plants west of the lathhouse jarred a bit. They are not yet mature and the effect may be different once they grow up. Surely there is *no* reason not to have a border of *Erysimum* 'Bowle's Mauve' and other sturdy flowering shrublets when this garden has long had a really good 40- by 40-foot cactus and succulents garden.

Sherman Library and Gardens is open seven days a week at 2647 E. Coast Highway, Corona del Mar 92625 (10:30 a.m.to 4 p.m). Admission is $3.00. Mondays are free. Telephone 949-673-0920. There is a restaurant and separate tea room.

You can drive north to Irvine on 405 (off I-5)—or use the new 73, a broad, new freeway through rolling Southern California hills, paralleling the older 405. Then turn south on MacArthur Boulevard. Before you splash into the Pacific, you will come to Highway 1, or Pacific Coast Highway. You are in Corona del Mar (incorporated now as part of Newport Beach). At this intersection turn left and drive a couple blocks to Dahlia Street. The walled Garden is on your right. Or, you could drive the coastal route through Dana Point. (Watch out for heavy traffic there in July in Laguna Beach's Festival of the Arts.)□



Ficus religiosa

SHERMAN GARDENS- LOS ALAMITOS RANCHO THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2000

First, we will have a docent-led tour of Sherman Gardens. This facility is an intimate, immaculately manicured two acres with a spectacular array of flowering plants, magnificent hanging basket display, and a conservatory complete with waterfall, pool, and koi.

After lunch on your own, we will visit the furnished 1806 Rancho Los Alamitos home, barns, and garden. There will be a guided tour of the home, and, if you wish your tour to include the five barns, put an "x" on box on coupon.

The gardens include formal gardens, oleander walk, fountain, bamboo, cactus, rose, herb, geranium walk, two Moreton Bay trees on four acres and are self guided. To make your visit more enjoyable, a map will be furnished so you will not get lost looking for the fifteen garden areas.

If you have any questions, Call Ann Waters at 858/277-5004.

Sherman Gardens/Los Alamitos Rancho
THURSDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2000

☐ $30.00 Members (who pay dues to SDFA)
☐ $33.00 Nonmembers
☐ Mark here if you wish your tour to include 5 barns

Lunch on your own

Make checks payable to San Diego Floral Association
Mail to San Diego Floral Association
1650 El Prado #105
San Diego, California 92101-1622

Please include a stamped/addressed envelope

Name(s):

Address:

Telephone Number:

PICK-UPS

☐**Red Lobster Park/Ride, Grossmont Ctr., La Mesa 7:30AM**
☐**Mission Valley on Camino del Este south of B/A 8:00AM**
☐**La Costa Park/Ride, Carlsbad 8:30AM**

TEMECULA ROSE GARDEN THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2000

The five acre Rose Bower Cottage garden, which we will visit today is spectacular. The more than three thousand roses include hybrid perpetuals, moss, hybrid musks, bourbons, rugosas, roses created by Sir Griffith Buck, repeat English roses, including David Austins, teas, and hybrid trees.

There is something of everything, but fragrance is a high priority. A favorite: the noisette, 'Madame Alfred Carriere', which blooms all the time.

There are flowering trees, wisteria, hydrangeas, camellias, hollies, iris, and a perennial border mixed with yellow roses along the 250-foot driveway. Besides the trees, the garden has a gazebo and arbors and pergolas for shade. There are benches scattered about so you may sit, rest, and enjoy. Any questions? Call Ann Waters, 858/277-5004.

Temecula Rose Garden
THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2000

☐ $34.00 Members (who pay dues to SDFA)
☐ $37.00 Nonmembers

Lunch is on your own

Make checks payable to San Diego Floral Association
Mail to San Diego Floral Association
1650 El Prado #105
San Diego, California 92101-1622

Please include a stamped/addressed envelope

Name(s):

Address:

Telephone Number:

PICK-UPS

☐**Red Lobster Park/Ride, Grossmont Ctr., La Mesa 8:30AM**
☐**Mission Valley on Camino del Este south of B/A 9:00AM**
☐**Escondido/Park/Ride 9:30AM**

Book Reviews

THE GARDEN COLOR BOOK: 343,000 Combinations for Your Garden
Paul Williams
San Francisco, Chronicle Books, 2000, 176 pages, over 600 color photos, 9″ x 9″, hardcover, $27.50

This unique book has over six hundred color photographs of individual plants displayed horizontally in swatches. The center 145 pages are divided into three sections so one can flip back and forth, mixing and matching flowers and colors to create a special garden. Plants are divided by color: blue, lilac, white, yellow, brown, orange, green, black, purple, grey, red, pink, and variegated. There is a hardiness zone map for the United States. Each flower is named and has a short description (planting recipe), which notes the blooming season, propagation instructions, growing conditions, and zone. Colorful gardens are very popular now and this book should be a fun way to select flowers.

Reviewed by Barbara S. Jones

DESIGN FOR GARDENS
Joseph Hudak
Portland, Timber Press, 2000, 217 pages, 147 color photos, 7⅜″ x 10⅛″, hardcover, $29.95

Redoing the garden has to be the ultimate make-over and this book might be just enough to get the job started. All it takes, according to this landscape architect, is motivation, patience, and enthusiasm, and he is here to provide the necessary background information and step-by-step directions.

Before rushing into the potential task at hand, Hudak does a historical overview of gardens, starting with the ancient Greeks, through the Dark Ages, when gardening principles were protected within monastery walls from the chaos around them. The Middle Ages saw the proliferation of elaborate palace gardens and inner courtyards that were enhanced by the botanical treasures brought from the orient by Marco Polo. Eighteenth century England was effectively relandscaped by such as Capability Brown who envisioned natural landscapes carefully planted out to enhance the view from the mansions of the aristocracy.

All these progressions dealt with the same factors facing today's garden designers, those of grade, soil composition, drainage, and weather. Once those are understood, the designer can choose options: Will it be a formal symmetrical plan or a rustic natural setting? Will there be a lake or a fountain? What will the hardscape, if any, be? Photos showing the before and after of several projects, plus views of good and not-so-good examples enliven the text. Most of the landscapes may appear very traditional to Western eyes, but their design elements are quite clear.

If all this seems like too much to deal with, the author describes his own five-year plan to relandscape his Boston backyard. Although much of the plant material may not relate to our area, his photos show the effect of an "outside of the box" imagination on the hodgepodge that initially greeted him out the back door. His "before, during, and after," photos of each section may be the most illuminating part of the entire book.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

SMITH & HAWKEN 100 HEIRLOOM TOMATOES FOR THE AMERICAN GARDEN
Carolyn J. Male
New York, Workman Publishing, 1999, 246 pages, color throughout, 5⅜″ x 10″, softcover, $17.95

I was skeptical that *100 Heirloom Tomatoes* would not be any more informative than the Smith and Hawken book on English roses. But the author, Carolyn Male, grew and tested 1,200 varieties over a decade. Seed Savers Exchange maintains 4,500 types. To narrow her list to one hundred is significant, her choice made primarily on taste.

One variety, 'Opalka', from Poland is described as "excellent in taste, very pleasing, with sweet overtones." It is shaped like a jalapeño and weighs six to eight ounces. It is one of the best paste tomatoes but has been difficult to produce because it contains so few seeds. Other interesting varieties include 'Hungarian Oval', 'Earl of Edgecombe' (originally from New Zealand), 'Dr. Lyle', and 'Cherokee Chocolate'. Suppliers of each variety are included.

Reviewed by Michelle Ogden

ORCHIDS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Andree Millar
Portland, Timber Press, 1999, 128 pages, 271 color photos, 14 b&w illustrations, 8½″ x 11½″, hardcover, $34.95

This book is almost like a fairy tale. I found it spell-binding to read, wondering what this Lady would be doing next. Andree and her husband went to Papua New Guinea in 1947. This is where it all started. They both had a desire to collect and save live plants that were sent to the Lae Herbarium and Botanic Garden. She always had a great love for orchids. She was sent to Port Moresby as Director of the National Botanic Garden at the University. That was in 1971.

It is mind boggling to read that there are more than 116 genera and 1,463 species of orchids that have been collected and saved from this area. Records are from as early as 1511. New Guinea is an island that has evolved from wars. The United nations placed the eastern part of the island under the control and care of Australia, and it finally received its independence in 1975 as Papua New Guinea. They now have roads, hospitals,

and schools. CITES is in effect to aid in the conservation and propagation of these many rare orchid species.

The many color photos are self-explanatory. They show the real beauty of these many flowers. Andree has included a fine glossary that is helpful in reading the many descriptions of the various plants.

This Lady was truly dedicated to the orchids of new Guinea. Reading about her treks through the wilderness, and the very detailed descriptions of finding the orchids, makes you feel that you have been there, and wish you could have done it. This book is a travel log and much more. If Millar was able to accomplish all of this, what are we here in the U.S.A. doing to help save these plants?

Reviewed by Ardell O. Marlin

PACHYPODIUM: Taxonomy, Habitats, and Cultivation
S.H.J.V. Rapanarivo, J.J. Laavranos, A.J.M. Leeuwenberg and W. Roosli

Rotterdam, A.A. Balkema Publishers, 1999, 120 pages, 80 color photos, 15 b&w illustrations, 8″ x 11¼″, hardcover, $90

The genus *Pachypodium* has twenty-three species, with eighteen endemic to Madagascar and the other five endemic to the southern part of Africa. The major part of the book is a taxonomic revision of the genus *Pachypodium* based on living plants, both wild and collected, and on herbarium material. Morphology, genus description, and a key to the species followed by detailed treatment of each of the twenty three genera will be of interest to the plant enthusiast. Smaller sections on habitat and cultivation are included. All species have at least one color photo, most have three or four. Fifteen species have full page drawings of plant and flower parts. *Sunset Western Garden* book lists only *Pachypodium lamerei*, common name, Madagascar palm. Locally, Quail Botanical Garden has three species, *P. lamieri*, *P. saundersai*, and *P. rutenbergianum* on display.

Reviewed by R. Cox

DAYLILIES FOR THE GARDEN
Graeme Grosvenor

Portland, Timber Press, 1999, 176 pages, 300 color photos, 44 line drawings, 8½″ x 11¼″, hardcover, $34.95

The botanical name comes from the Greek: hemero for "one day" and callis for "beauty," and was given by Linnaeus in 1753. The plant has been popular in Europe since that time, but daylilies were not introduced to America until the late nineteenth century. According to the author, they have since had to overcome a rash of rumors regarding the number of times they bloom per year, (much more than one day!), their range of color, and their value as a plant that is admittedly very easy to grow.

This handsome volume has come to give the truth about daylilies, with many beautiful color photos showing blooms of every shade of red, yellow, cream, and even aubergine. The author explains the nine different ways of classifying daylilies and recommends the varieties he prefers. He discusses propagation methods, including drawings of how to hybridize and presents various landscape uses, from border edgings to pots, and offers lists of companion plants.

Not content with just gardening information, Grosvenor gives information on how to photograph daylilies and if that is not enough, to sell you on their beauty and wonder, presents ways of preparing them for food. A recipe for Daylily Bud Casserole calls for ten cups of buds, but if it's too late for that, the author suggests that cooking (or freezing) spent blooms are tasty ways to dispose of them!

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

SPECIAL PLANTS
Jane Taylor, Photographs by Marijke Heuff

London, Quadrille, Distributed by Trafalgar Square, North Pomfret, VT., 2000, 224 pages, color photos, 10½″ x 9¾″, hardcover, $35

The subtitle of this book is: "over 500 outstanding plants for the enthusiastic gardener," but, unfortunately, local gardeners will find only a fraction of plants that will grow here. But this is still a valuable book for the way it is organized to help gardeners sort out the several functions that various plants can perform in the garden.

Accompanied by absolutely exquisite color photos, the author begins with shrubs and trees that provide a framework for the garden. A list of plants serving this purpose is given, with detailed descriptions of many varieties. Next is a section on verticals, vines that "clothe and climb," linking trees to ground; a photo of a pink climbing rose combined with fluffy seed pods of a clematis is a knock-out! Shrubs and perennials that provide a broad-brush effect throughout the year include bright foliage and great drifts of flowering color. The short-term glory of seasonal bulbs and annuals provides its own excitement, as shown in a view of fallen beech leaves whose tawny tone matches the stigmas of the violet crocus nestled among them. Chapters on woodlands, orchards, and other shady or natural areas, and ponds, streams, and bogs complete this approach to plant selection.

Many plants, particularly the perennials, appear in more than one chapter and all plants are listed by botanical name. The common names appear in the narrative descriptions, however, and they are included in the index at the end of the book.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

GARDENING WITH BULBS: A Practical Guide
Cathy Buchanan

North Pomfret, Vt., Distributed by Trafalgar Square, Published by The National Trust Ltd., 2000, 96 pages, 20 color photos, 31 line drawings, 7¼″ x 9⅝″, softcover, $15.95

Ten of England's foremost gardeners have shared their expertise for this attractive, but not-very-practical-for-Southern California compendium of bulb gardening. Detailed line illustrations of planting, dividing and nurturing seeds from bulbs add good information if you live where bulbs can lie dormant in the cold, cold ground over winter.The gardeners consulted are in charge of National Trust properties, stately manors, and even palaces. The color photos of their domains are beautiful, and the text will have value for gardeners whose interest extends to places unlike their own.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

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619/232-5762, located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park

Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

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2000

October 17
5:45 p.m.

Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

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Coronado Public Library

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Senior Center

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2nd Mon - 9:30 am, 4975 Memorial Drive,
La Mesa

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LAS JARDINERAS
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3rd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB
Pres: Nell McChesney 760-599-4815
3rd Sat - 1:00 pm, MiraCosta Community
College, Student Center Bldg (upstairs)

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4th Wed - 6:30 pm
Call for meeting information.

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2nd Wed - 10:00 am, Masonic Hall
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Church, LJ

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Quail Gardens
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Quail Gardens

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PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
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3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado
Meetings Nov through Apr ONLY

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Pres: David J. Tooley 858-672-2593
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1st Tues - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

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BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB
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4th Tue - 7:00 pm, Bonita Valley Baptist Church

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Jan/Feb - 4th Mon

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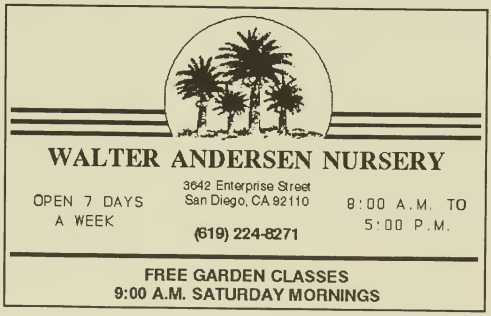
President: Walter Pagels 582-5408
3rd Sun - Apr thru Oct
Call for meeting information.

AFFILIATES:

Send changes to: Lynn Beyerle, Affiliates Editor, *California Garden*, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego CA 92101-1622. Call 619-232-5762.

Deadline for Nov-Dec issue: Sep 15, 2000

Are you aware that each affiliate group is entitled to a free advertisement once each year? It should be "camera ready" (suitable to be sent to printer). The text should be enclosed in a border. The border must be included when measuring dimensions, which are to be 3.5 (3½) inches wide by 2.25 (2¼) inches high. If done on a computer, please use a font that does not resemble typewriting.



SOME USES OF DURSBAN BANNED

LAST JUNE, PHILIP BRASHER, of Associated Press, wrote that one of the most commonly used insecticides around homes and gardens had been banned for household use, where children are exposed to the residue. This action of the Environmental Protection Agency was pursued under the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act, which requires the EPA to reassess tolerance levels (margins of safety) for hundreds of pesticides. The EPA concluded that **chlorpyrifos**, sold under the trade names Dursban and Lorsban, did not meet the acceptable level for dietary risk.

Commercially, the chemical is most heavily used on corn and other crops such as grapes and apples, but it also has been used for years indoors and outside to kill termites, roaches, ants, fleas, and other pests. **The EPA has concluded the compound poses no immediate threat to public health and will not order a recall of products containing it.** However, it did place a ban on almost all residential and commercial usage of the insecticide. The chemical is used on 75 percent of the nation's apple crop, so the EPA's decision will force growers to switch to alternative pesticides.

Last year, the agency banned the use of methyl parathion on all fruit and many vegetables and restricted the use of azinphos-methyl. Like Dursban, those pesticides belong to a class of chemicals called organophosphates, **which include nerve agents developed as chemical weapons**.

Ken Andersen, vice-president and general manager of Walter Andersen Nursery, issued a statement that said that the approximately ten products they sold containing chlorpyrifos will no longer be available for purchase at the nursery's locations. He said that they started looking at what was available in terms of back-up products and found that they have an alternative for everything that contains Dursban.

Andersen said that there are plenty of natural solutions for eradicating garden pests, as well as other insecticides currently on the market that are significantly less toxic than Dursban. Some of these are diatomaceous earth, pyrethrins, malathion, and diazinon. □

Compiled by J. Coleman

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NOW is the time to join! Learn how easy and fun it is to grow orchids. Meet the experts through society activities including lectures, tours, open houses, and classes.

The society meets the first Tuesday of every month at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Cultural classes start at 6:30 p.m. in the library, followed by the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. in room 101. Refreshments, orchid display, and an orchid raffle follow the meeting.

All this and a great monthly newsletter for only $10.00 (single membership) or $12.50 (dual membership) per year. Don't delay, make your check out today to the SDCOS and mail to:

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KATE SESSIONS BOOK

The complete collection of writings by Kate Sessions in *California Garden* magazine from 1909 until 1939 is now available at the San Diego Floral Association office in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. The book contains a plant index and many changes in plant names, particularly scientific, have been noted.

Often known as the "Mother of Balboa Park," for over fifty years she devoted her life to helping people grow beautiful plants in San Diego. She tells how, in this book that is for sale in the San Diego Floral Office for $18.00 (tax included) — $15.00 (tax included, for members). If you wish a copy mailed to you, use the coupon below and enclose $3.00 for handling and mailing.

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